

## Message Text

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12

ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DLOS-04 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 COME-00

EB-07 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 ERDA-05

AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01

CEA-01 /117 W

----- 090113

R 151717Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5586

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

USNATO 1177

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, IC

SUBJECT: GOI WRESTLES WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF 200-MILE FISHERIES  
ZONE

1. WITH ONLY TWO MONTHS TO GO BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
ICELANDS 200-MILE FISHERIES LIMITS, GOI HAS NOT YET  
AGREED ON POSITION TO TAKE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBJECT  
WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND REMAINS UNRESPONSIVE TO  
LATTERS' INTEREST IN TALKS.

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2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING UK AND FRG HAVE FORMALLY SOUGHT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THUS FAR GOI HAS NLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SUCH REQUESTS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR COMPLAINED YESTERDAY TO CHARGE OVER GOI FOOT-DRAGGING, ALTHOUGH SCHEDULED RETURN TO ICELAND THIS WEKEND OF GOI AMBASSADOR IN LONDON APPEARS TO SIGNAL SOME MOVEMENT ON QUESTION AT LEAST AS FAR A BRITISH ARE CONCERNED. THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT ICELAND IS ANY CLOSER TO DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG. MEANWHILE, USSR HAS DELIVERED FORMAL WRITTEN PROTEST TO GOI OVER PLANNED EXTENSION, WHICH MOSCOW REPORTEDLY TERMED ILLEGAL. FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON TOLD PRESS THAT GOI WOULD REPLY BY REITERATING INTENTION TO EXTEND AND SPELL OUT JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING SO.

3. GOI'S DELIBERATE APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS APPARENTLY STEMS FROM UNRESOLVED QUESTION WITHIN CABINET OF WHAT, IF ANY, FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN 50 MILES WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN TALKS. ISSUE HAS MAJOR POLITICAL OVERTONES AND COULD CAUSE BOTH STRAINS WITHIN COALITION AND SERIOUS VULNERABILITY OF COALITION TO OPPOSITION ATTACKS. CONSENSUS WITHIN PM HALLGRIMSSON'S INDEPENDENCE PARTY APPEARS PREPARED TO CONSIDER CONCESSIONS INSIDE 50 MILES, BUT TIS PROGRESSIVE PARTY PARTNER IS REPORTEDLY SPLIT ON QUESTION WITH STRONG ELEMENT OPPOSED TO ANY FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN THAT ZONE. OPPOSITION COMMUNIST-DOMINATED PEOPLES ALLIANCE HAS INSISTED ON NO CONCESSIONS TO FOREIGNERS INSIDE NEW LIMITS AND ESPCIALLY INSIDE 50 MILES. IF SUCH PRIVILEGES ARE GRANTED, PA CAN BE EXPECTED TO SEEK MAXIMUM POLITICAL ADVANTAGE BY PLAYING ON POPULAR CONCERN OVER DEPLETION OF VITAL RESOURCES AND ON GENERALLY INTENSE NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS OVER FISHERIES ISSUE. BEARING IN MIND EMBARRASSMENT IT SUFFERED LAST FALL WHEN PEOPLES ALLIANCE PRESSURE AND GROUNDSWELL OF PROGRESSIVE DISSIDENTS SCUTTLED DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH FRG, CABINET WILL DOUBTLESS STICK TO ITS KID-GLOVE HANDLING OF THIS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL WATERS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, FISHING LIMITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975REYKJA00931  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750284-0153  
**From:** REYKJAVIK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OFA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOI WRESTLES WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE  
**TAGS:** EFIS, IC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006